

REGULAR MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
April 23, 2007

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Blair, Clouette, Haddad, Hawkins, Koehn, Paterson, Paulhus, Schaefer

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Koehn moved and Mr. Clouette seconded to approve the minutes of the April 4, 2007 Special meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Hawkins moved and Ms. Koehn seconded to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2007 Special and Regular meetings as presented. Motion passed with Ms. Blair abstaining.

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2007 meeting with a punctuation correction. Motion passed with Ms. Koehn abstaining.

Mr. Clouette moved and Ms. Blair seconded to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2007 Special meeting. Motion passed with Ms. Blair abstaining.

III. MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Paterson requested a moment of silence in honor of and respect for our troops around the world. She asked the public to keep the young men and women from the area, who just came home with their guard unit, in their thoughts.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Gary English, 15 Clearview Drive and representing the Mansfield Little League, commented on increasing the time the banners are allowed in the ballparks. He noted that the banners are a significant opportunity for fundraising, are a safety consideration and are part of the visual culture of the game. In response to a question regarding allowing other nonprofits the ability to use Town land to advertise, Mr. English answered that ball fields are the appropriate context and place for such advertising.

Joanne Wunschel, 726 Middle Turnpike, commented that as a parent and mother of a Little League participant, she feels that the public/private partnership is positive for both.

Mr. Haddad moved to add discussion of Adoption of the Budget and Recommended Cuts as Item 5A under New Business. Seconded by Ms. Blair the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Schaefer moved and Ms. Blair seconded to move Item 4, Program Sponsorship Signs/Banners in Town Parks, as the next item of business. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Program Sponsorship Signs/Banners In Town Parks

Council members discussed that the motion tonight would be to send the matter to public hearing.

Mr. Schaefer moved to schedule a public hearing for 7:30 at the Town Council's regular meeting on May 14, 2007 to solicit public comment concerning the proposed amendments to the Park Regulations. These proposed changes would eliminate references to single games or events occurring on a single day found in Section J.3. and replace those references with the word season. Seconded by Mr. Paulhus, the motion passed with Blair, Clouette, Haddad, Hawkins, Paterson, Paulhus, Schaefer in agreement and Koehn in opposition.

Mr. Clouette moved to include, in the proposed changes, the elimination of Section J.2. of the Park Regulations and the revision of Section J. 8 to delete all references to J.2. Seconded by Mr. Haddad, the motion failed with Clouette, Haddad, Koehn and Schaefer in agreement and Blair, Hawkins, Paterson and Paulhus in opposition.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Issues Regarding the UConn Landfill

No Action

2. Community/Campus Relations

Council member and staff recounted their experiences during Spring Weekend and commended the efforts of the multitude of volunteers, students, staff and agencies who participated. Members felt that the culture of the students is starting to change for the better. Mr. Hawkins requested a list of agencies and their contributions to the effort. Mr. Clouette requested that a resolution of thanks be prepared for the next packet. Chief Dagon and John Jackman, Fire Marshal, presented preliminary statistics on the weekend. The Town Manager stated that the Town needs to continue to work with the Campus/Community Partnership to promote alternative programming and to work with the landlords to develop and implement additional security measures.

3. Community Water and Wastewater Issues

The Advisory Committee will meet on May 2, 2007 at which time the consultants will present the Master Plan. The Town Manager would like the Council and the Conservation Commission to review the plan and offer comments by May 14, 2007. There will be a public comment opportunity at some point.

4. Program Sponsorship Signs/Banners in Town Parks

Addressed above

VI. NEW BUSINESS

5a. Adoption of the Budget and Changes to the Budget

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Clouette seconded to approve the following resolutions:

RESOLVED, effective April 23, 2007, to make the following adjustments to the Town Manager's Proposed Fiscal Year 2007/08 Operating Budget: 1) reduce the General Government budget by \$107,350; 2) reduce the Mansfield Board of Education budget by \$181,740; 3) add \$475,000 in estimated PILOT revenue; and 4) add \$500 to the legislative program budget, community events line to fund an Earth Day Celebration.

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Clouette seconded to approve the following resolutions:

RESOLVED: That the General Fund Budget for the Town of Mansfield, appended totaling \$31,613,530 is hereby adopted as the proposed operating budget for the Town of Mansfield for the fiscal year July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008.

RESOLVED: That the Capital Fund Budget for the Town of Mansfield, appended totaling \$2,472,800 is hereby adopted as the capital improvements to be undertaken during fiscal year 2007/08 or later years.

RESOLVED: That the proposed Capital and Non-Recurring Reserve Fund Budget for fiscal year July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008 in the amount of \$1,352,419 be adopted.

It is further resolved, that the following Appropriations Act be recommended for adoption at the annual Town Meeting for budget consideration:

RESOLVED: That the proposed General Fund Budget for the Town of Mansfield for fiscal year July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008 in the amount of \$31,613,530 which proposed budget was adopted by the Council on April 23, 2007, be adopted and that the sums estimated and set forth in said budget be appropriated for the purpose indicated.

RESOLVED: That in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-51, the proportionate share for the Town of Mansfield of the annual budget for Regional School District No. 19 shall be added to the General Fund Budget appropriation for the Town of Mansfield for fiscal year July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008 and said sums shall be paid by the Town to the Regional School District as they become available.

RESOLVED: That the proposed Capital Projects Budget for fiscal year July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008 in the amount of \$2,472,800 be adopted provided that the portion proposed to be funded by bonds or notes shall, at the appropriate times, be introduced for action by the Town Council subject to a vote by referendum as required by Section 407 of the Town Charter.

RESOLVED: That the proposed Capital and Non-Recurring Reserve Fund Budget for fiscal year July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008 in the amount of \$1,352,419 be adopted.

Motion passes unanimously.

5. Transfer of Uncollected Taxes to Property Tax Suspense Book

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded, effective April 23, 2007, to transfer \$101,610.16 in uncollected property taxes to the Mansfield Property Tax Suspense Book, as recommended by the Collector of Revenue.

Motion passed unanimously.

6. Procedures for the Posting and Retention of Agendas and Minutes

Ms. Koehn suggested that the first line of Section V. read, "A copy of the agenda of each meeting must be retained for a minimum of one year."

7. Application to AT&T Excelsior Technology Grant Program

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Clouette seconded to approve the following resolution:

Resolved, effective April 23, 2007, to authorize the Town Manager, Matthew W. Hart, to make execute and approve on behalf of this corporation, any and all contracts and amendments and to execute and approve on behalf of the town other instruments a part of or incident to such contracts and amendments effective until otherwise ordered by the Town Council.

Kevin Grunwald, Social Services Director, explained the technology enhancements implementation of this grant would offer the Senior Center including registration for programs, services and the tracking of programs. Ms. Koehn expressed concern that the informal atmosphere at the Center might be lost with too much technology.

Motion passed with Ms. Koehn voting nay.

VII. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mr. Paulhus again requested that the Board of Education minutes be included in the

reports.

VIII. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

-

-

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

-

Ms. Koehn reported on the Earth Day Celebration calling it a success with a number of peoples signing up for clean energy. Many participants were interested in learning about their carbon footprint. She also noted that the Transportation Advisory Committee has asked her to speak at the PZC meeting regarding the size of bus stops in the Downtown Storrs area.

Mr. Paulhus attended the Second Congressional Art Show, as did the Mayor, and the public information session on the budget, as did Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Paulhus also reported that the Public Liaison Committee met at the prison and in the future will be able to tour the classrooms while classes are in session.

Mr. Hawkins, Mayor Paterson and the Town Manager met with the North East Legislative Caucus to talk about funding for the Storrs Project.

X. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

-

Attached

-

XI. FUTURE AGENDAS

-

Mr. Hawkins would like to discuss the Community Center and Recreation Department budget and asked staff to breakdown the programs so members will have the information prior to the Annual Town Meeting, if possible. Mr. Clouette agreed noting that after the budget season the Council should take a measured look at the department and formulate some basic principles.

Mr. Hawkins also requested that the Council look at the Fire Service Consolidation and have a discussion about the priorities of the Department.

Mr. Clouette commented that he would like to discuss economic development, maybe within the efforts of the Strategic Plan. He also would like to have a meeting with the Housing Authority. Mr. Clouette would like to explore the issue of development and sustainability. Mr. Hart commented that he has invited Greg Padick, Town Planner, to the next meeting.

XII. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

-

8. Chronicle, March 23, 2007, Letter to the Editor
9. Chronicle, March 27, 2007, "No Public Comments at First Storrs Forum"
10. Chronicle, March 22, 2007, "Storrs Project to Get \$2.5M"
11. Chronicle, April 6, 2007, "Strong Support for Storrs Plan"
12. Chronicle, March 29, 2007, Summer Viability of Storrs Center Project is Questioned."
13. Connecticut Town & City, April 2007,"CCM Battles to Defeat Millions in

Proposed Cuts in Non-education Aid for Cities and Towns'

14. Connecticut Town & City, April 2007, CCM Responds to Proposed Property Tax Cap"
15. The Day, April 8, 2007, " A Breath of Fresh Air In New London"
16. The Daily Campus, " April 6, 2007, Public Speaks on Storrs Center Project"
17. The Daily Campus, "March 26, 2007, " Signs Alert Pedestrians, Cars"
18. The Daily Campus, "March 29, 2007, " Storrs Center Proposal Officially Submitted."
19. Hartford Courant, " March 28, 2007, " Hearings To Begin on \$165 Million Storrs Center Plan"
20. Hartford Courant, April 6, 2007, " Project Getting Strong Support"
21. D. Merrill re: S.B. 282
22. E. Paterson re: H.B. 6297

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Blair moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 p.m.
Motion so passed.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk